

# Democratic Women's Caucus

## 60<sup>th</sup> Montana Legislature

### Helena, MT

Chairman Olson and Members of the Federal Relations, Energy and Telecommunications Committee:

The Democratic Women's Caucus of the Montana State Legislature has endorsed SB423 as one of its top priorities for this session and we ask for your support of this legislation.

SB423 would ensure our children will stay safe and healthy by requiring careful disposal of mercury products and keeping harmful mercury out of our schools and environment. Mercury is a known neurotoxin that can cause a number of serious health effects including developmental retardation and learning disorders in children. Already in Montana, pregnant and nursing mothers are warned not to eat some fish caught in any of our lakes or rivers, because they are contaminated with mercury. SB423 offers a cost-effective, sensible solution to prevent more mercury from poisoning our environment by requiring manufacturers to stop selling consumer products containing mercury for which there is already a mercury-free alternative in our state. This means that no mercury from these products would end up in our water and contaminate our fish after being thrown away.

Passing SB423 will improve the health of all Montanans by significantly lowering the amount of mercury we are all exposed to on a daily basis. This is sound public health policy which can readily be accomplished with minimal impact to the business sector of our society. Please give SB423 a due pass.

Sincerely,



Senator Carol Williams,

on behalf of the Democratic Women's Legislative Caucus